

## **THE RIGHT TO THE CITY CONCEPT IN CONTEMPORARY URBAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH**

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The concept of the "right to the city" was coined by French geographer Henri Lefebvre and later popularised by British geographer and social theorist David Harvey. Lefebvre developed the concept on the eve of the 1968 student protests in support of young people, the poor, individuals and groups who felt excluded from aspects of urban life. Harvey later revived the concept and linked it to the global financial crisis of 2008, when thousands of urban protests swept the world. Young, precarious, vulnerable people took to the streets to demand social justice. In the post-socialist space, the 'right to the city' concept has its own specificities, as the dispute over the use of urban space is a fundamental

post-socialist struggle. Post-socialist 'wild' and unregulated market liberalisation, rapid privatisation and real estate speculators working with local politicians and economic elites have created a specific urban environment in which the concept of the 'right to the city' has taken on a new dimension.

The paper aims to contribute to the debate on using the "right to the city" concept. What does the concept have to say in contemporary urban anthropology, and how can we apply it to contemporary cities, especially post-socialist ones?

**Key-words:** city, urban anthropology, right to the city, post-socialist space.